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WE'RE IN THE ERA OF DIRECT EVIDENCE

First it was the sample cutting last month of trees in the shelterbelt on the Dr. A. G. Bungardt farm near Elk City, Oklahoma, and now a "timber beast's" cruise of the C. P. Barker shelterbelt, near Meridian, Oklahoma, to jolt one into a realization of how far the Prairie States Forestry Project has passed from the stage of circumstantial evidence to the realm of direct evidence. Both shelterbelts were planted in the spring of 1935.

The trees cut from the Bungardt shelterbelt measured: Cottonwood, 33½ feet tall and diameter four feet above the ground, 7 inches; Chinese elm, 30 feet tall and 6½ inches in diameter; black locust, 25 feet tall and 6 inches in diameter; and catalpa 20 feet tall and 5½ inches in diameter. It is estimated by State Director Nelson that several hundred fence posts can be taken from the shelterbelt.

Sections cut from the trees were polished and varnished to make displays for use by the Oklahoma State, District and Subdistrict Offices, and one set was sent to the Regional Office.

And now Dave Olson returns from the Southland with the information that a cruise by Thomas C. Hutchinson, North Dakota nurseryman on detail in Oklahoma, revealed that there are 770 posts ready for harvest in the Barker shelterbelt. Figured at 20 cents each, the posts in the belt are worth \$154.

Thus, trees planted by the Forest Service only four years ago have attained sizes to be of much value to their owners, and pay in cash for the labor required for their care. Furthermore, good forestry practices will establish trees as an annual crop. To this can be added the mounting pile of testimonials of the trees' worth to the farms in the way of saving soil, benefiting crops, and as havens for wildlife.

Olson also reports that nowhere in the area embraced by the Project is there any indication that thinning is necessary yet. Even where the density of the stand is greatest, he says, the trees grew from two to four feet last year and give no evidence of competing for moisture.

Natural reseeding by desert willow and cottonwood has appeared in a few belts, Olson reported, and aside from those trees the black locusts, catalpas, colutea, mulberry, Chinese elm and wild plum trees in the shelterbelts are bearing seed. This bids fair to simplify the seed-collection job and reduce costs measurably. So far, he said, no cedar has shown up although it is to be expected before many years in districts where there is mature parent stock bearing fruit for the birds to transport.

All of these add to the "Shelterbelter's" sample case:

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

KANSAS COUNTY DADS REALLY HELP

With the planting season in full swing in Kansas, 41 trucks carry men and trees to the shelterbelts as a result of the splendid cooperation of county officials. In the past, counties have furnished office and storage space and a few have provided motor equipment, but with the beginning of the 1939 planting season came mass assistance from all counties in the planting area. Following is a list of cooperating counties and the number of trucks each furnishes: Kiowa, 1; Clark, 1; Comanche, 1; Ford, 2; Gray, 1; Edwards, 1; Pawnee, 1; Meade, 2; Pratt, 2; Stafford, 2; Barton, 4; Russell, 1; Rush, 2; Harvey, 2; Reno, 3; Rice, 3; Kingman, 3; Sedgwick, 2; Sumner, 1; Harper, 2; Barber, 2.

Some of the counties are new recruits in tree planting, while others where plantings were made in former years can be depended to give the wheel a real heave when the shelterbelt wagon encounters mud. Besides furnishing trucks, Harper, Barber and Sedgwick Counties allow our subsoiler men mileage.

Most of the trucks are good equipment. Some are owned by the counties and a few more were purchased especially for use on this Project, but most are rented. Some of the rented trucks cost \$40 to \$75 a month and others seven to ten cents per mile operated. In most instances the counties maintain their equipment, but some require the Forest Service to furnish gasoline and oil.

The two most colorful trucks are in Reno County. One is distinctive with its "Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer" sign, but the men inside can't get a "collar" on the contents of their water bags. The other vehicle is a hearse from Little River which retired because of age. New recruits at the planting shed stand with bared heads and traffic pauses on the highway when the hearse trundles its load of trees to the shelterbelts. Perhaps the shade trees of the pioneers of Little River are cooperating, too, for the seedlings nestle in coffin-like tree boxes.

"From the gilded salon

To the bier and the shroud --

Oh! Why should the spirit of mortal be proud."

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

"Courtesy is a synonym for caution. No driver or walker is so important that he can safely assert privileges over all others upon the road."

- Idaho Highways and Public Works.

HAVE YOU A DEMONSTRATOR?

We have proved that trees will grow where we have planted them, but each year the Forest Service must do some work where the cooperator either fails or does not know how to care for a shelterbelt properly. Much of this work could be eliminated if the Forest Service had a demonstration or experimental belt in each subdistrict where the cooperator could be shown how a shelterbelt should be cared for and what a well-cared-for belt looks like.

For this, why not choose the outstanding cooperator in the best possible location in each subdistrict? Or, to avoid complications, the demonstration belt could be chosen by vote after the cooperators had organized a subdistrict shelterbelt association.

The Forest Service should strive to make the selected shelterbelts outstanding, and they would show the standard composition best suited to the communities. The Forest Service would prepare or supervise the preparation of the land for planting, and would care for or supervise the caring for the shelterbelts, using Forest Service methods and standardized equipment. Experiments and demonstrations on methods of rodent, insect and disease control could be carried on in the selected shelterbelts. When the Forest Service has a crew in or is supervising a particular operation in a selected belt, other cooperators could be present to learn by demonstration the proper way to care for the plantation.

Exhibitions of how easily good results can be obtained will encourage cooperators and teach them to take better care of their trees. The small extra cost to the Forest Service will be more than repaid by the saving made by having better belts on all farms and a substantial increase in survival, reducing the expense of future replacements.

Another advantage is that the Forest Service will have in each subdistrict a shelterbelt to which Congressmen, Government Officials and any other interested persons may be taken to show what shelterbelts will do when cared for properly.

- Thomas C. Hutchinson, Okla.

WE WON'T HAVE SOME CORN, THANK YOU

Six hundred ears of poisoned sweet and field corn were placed in the Harry King shelterbelt in Towner County, North Dakota, in a recent experiment to determine which variety is the best bait for Brer Rabbit. The bunnies, however, decided to stay away, leaving the sumptuous repast for their pals of the Plains, the prairie chickens. No second table was set. The chickens suffered no apparent ill effects, but instead are very fat and "sassy."

Elsewhere things went differently, and the corn was not discovered by the chickens. The indications in the other poison tests are that field corn is given a slight preference by the rabbits.

And by the bye, you Nimrods: G. Freeman says that he owns a gun which shoots so far that salt must be mixed with the shot to preserve the game until it can be retrieved. Yes, he said that!

- F. E. Gill, N.Dak.

TEXANS HAVE FUN

With much merriment and good-fellowship, about 70 persons gathered at the Vernon Country Club on the evening of February 18 for the first get-together of the Texas Forest Service personnel this year. The entertainment started with the serving of a buffet supper, after which Walt Webb as toastmaster presided over a short program.

"Professors" Vogel and Dahl held the spotlight with their "Information Please" class. The "professors" had difficulty in separating the Dumb Clucks from the Wise Guys, so they took the easy way out -- disqualified all of the students and annexed the intelligence awards themselves.

After the quiz and a grand march, the group spent the evening at dancing, some of the jitterbugs executing maneuvers which would make even instructors from the famous Murray School of Dancing gaze in wonderment. Shortly after midnight, the Plainviewites, the Greens from Shamrock, the Childressians, the Fall guys from Wichita, and the Lone Ducks from Oklahoma wended their way home, weary but happy.

- Texas

TOP-KILLING OF HEELED-IN STOCK IN KANSAS

Trees in heel-in beds in Kansas probably have suffered more from top-killing during the past winter than in any single winter since the Project began. Fortunately, all of our stock was set deeply into the ground, some species being almost completely covered, so that the injury was confined to tops above the ground level.

American elm, cottonwood, honeylocust, American plum, Russian olive, chokecherry, green ash, coffee tree, sumac, tamarix and Chinese elm came through the winter with very little injury, while the exposed tops of Osage-orange, hackberry, apricot, catalpa, mulberry, walnut and black locust suffered more. Mulberry, catalpa and walnut seedlings were rather badly injured by an early freeze before fall digging, and it was a relief to find that they had wintered without substantial additional injury.

Drying out at a time when frozen roots can not supply moisture to the tops is believed responsible for top-killing, and completely covering all tops appears to be the logical preventive.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

NORTH DAKOTAN SEES TREES AS FOUNDATION

In "Farm Forestry Facts," the publication of the North Dakota Forestry Department, an article dealing with Christmas trees -- how for two weeks every care is given a tree, and then how all thought of tree welfare is cast aside with the discarded Christmas tree -- is this statement:

"It is time that we, the people of the state, in the midst of our garbled talk of reduced productivity, high winds, dry fields, and air dust-filled to the point of choking, stopped our thoughtless practice of throwing trees on the scrap heap, and began to look upon them for what they are: The hope around which all our future must be centered."

FRONT PAGE STUFF

What determines whether a story is worthy of the paper's best position: Page one, column eight?

Newspaper men waste no time quibbling over the definition of a "big" story. On this point everybody is agreed. A big story is one that concerns familiar people in dramatic circumstances. It must have romance and pathos and suspense -- and it must be true. It need not, by any means, be a story of significance in the development of the races. It comes closer to fiction as an art form than to history, and its writers are perpetually handicapped by the fact that they must depend on fate to provide them with the comic twist or the denouement which a novelist may invent. When circumstances do deliver the goods in an artistic form, the exultation in the city room is correspondingly high.

Serious-minded critics of the press inevitably miss this point, which is thoroughly understood by the newspaper-buying public. Professors scoff at the "ephemeral" nature of the news the papers honor with the position of column eight on page one. They would prefer that this space be reserved for such solemn, historically important events as occur in international conferences. That a mere murder should take precedence over the decisions of the League of Nations is shocking to them.

Publishers and the public both know better. They know that curiosity about one's neighbor is a legitimate human trait -- one from which all literature, in fact, has sprung. Aristotle's Pity and Fear emerge from many a murder or kidnaping story and overwhelm the reader. Very little catharsis of the emotions can be derived from the doings at Geneva. The peculiarity of the newspaper story as an art form lies in the fact that it must be true. This is law, just as a sonnet must, beyond all appeal to reason, have 14 lines. And the events of a newspaper story must, by another rule, have happened spontaneously, without the urging of the editor in the hope of improving events.

A big news story must be related in some way to the life of every reader. It must involve exciting events in the life of someone so like himself that he can breathe, "There, but for the grace of God," and marvel at the accidents from which he has escaped. Or it must involve a threat to his own happiness -- an approaching flood, a mustering out of troops for war, a riot a few miles from his home. Is it more contemptible for an editor to recognize this limitation than for a dramatist or a novelist to do so? Man is simply not designed to work himself into a lather over an abstraction. And few newspapers are as consistently sensational as the Greek tragedies which are recommended, with some aplomb, to the college students of today.

(Extract from an article by Gretta Palmer in "Today")--From Six Twenty Six.

CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP!

In no case could North Dakota afford to have the work of the Prairie States Forestry Project discontinued, was the statement of Mr. Ryan speaking at the annual dinner meeting of the Greater North Dakota Association on the topic, "Things to Be Done," reports State Director Cobb, who attended the meeting. The speaker had high praise for the Project. About 60 officers, directors and members of Chambers of Commerce from over the State attended, Mr. Cobb said.

WE TAKE TO THE AIR

Copies of radio scripts recently received indicate increasing activity on the part of the field in broadcasting. North Dakota is giving talks over the Jamestown, Fargo, and Bismarck stations in the interest of wildlife conservation, Jr. Biological Aide Coe being on the "giving" end of the dialogues. District Officer Croker, of Texas, has given two broadcasts over the new station at Vernon, also of the dialogue variety.

The Elk City, Oklahoma troubadours have apparently shut down their weekly broadcasts for the time being - possibly in order to let the "Hill Billy Band" get rehearsed up on a new repertoire of selections, but they gave a lot of them while they were going.

If the P.S.F.P. does nothing else, it should produce some talent for the radio writing fraternity; the scripts show good writing, a good sense of interest values, and often a lot of ingenuity in avoiding the banality that characterizes so much "informational" broadcasting.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

A NURSERYMAN SIGNS FOR A SHELTERBELT

Two pieces of mail received at the Kinsley District headquarters in Kansas on the last day of February were of the type to make any shelterbelter sing with joy and feel that spring is here for certain

The first was a signed cooperative agreement for a half-mile shelterbelt in Meade County on land owned by a commercial nurseryman and, so far as we know, is the first instance of a nurseryman crossing the line to our side of the field. Attached to the agreement was a note: "Dear Johnston-- Haven't we met? Best wishes to you and your good work," meaning, of course, the good work of the Project. The note was signed: "Cordially, L. W. Lawson, Lawson Landscape and Nursery."

We surely want the cooperation of the nurserymen, and the enthusiasm of both Mr. Lawson and his tenant, Marvin Joy, lead me to believe that our future relations with them will be a real cause for joy.

The second welcome piece of mail was a poem written by Mrs. L. C. Combs praising the Project. "Friend, be glad you're a tree planter here" are the words with which she concludes a tribute which would give any District or Subdistrict Officer a boost out of the dumps when he gets "snowed under." And, incidentally, the Combs farm is signed up for a three-quarter mile shelterbelt to be planted this spring.

- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

(Editor's Note: We regret that Mrs. Combs' poem is much too long to permit publication in PLAINS FORESTER.)

The word "consensus" means agreement in opinion. The term "consensus of opinion" is redundant.

- Region 4 "Daily News"

WILDLIFERS RECOGNIZE THE SHELTERBELT

The Prairie States Forestry Project has a strong booster in the North Dakota Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, whose goal is the perpetuation of wildlife through establishing wildlife sanctuaries and game refuges, and education of the public.

The North Dakota Chapter, one of the most active in the Federation, seeks establishment of a six-man game commission to remove wildlife administration from politics, endorses the Missouri River diversion dam project to fill many lakes which have long been dry and to freshen the waters of the James and Sheyenne Rivers thereby aiding migratory waterfowl and reviving fishing, and seeks to provide or encourage establishment of wildlife sanctuaries for the protection of game from predators and out-of-season hunters. With this is to go an intensive educational campaign.

The "wildlifers" were quick to recognize the value as bird sanctuaries and sources of food of the shelterbelt plantings and the potential worth of timber plantings on thousands of farms throughout the State, and have backed the Project. Russian olive and hackberry trees, planted by the Forest Service, retain their seeds throughout the winter and are of especial value as a source of food for upland game birds in winter.

- Auburn S. Coe, N.Dak.

WHERE ARE THOSE WPA "SHOVEL LEANERS" WE READ ABOUT?

"Can't Keep a Good Man Down." That's the heading over a remarkable feature story about a hard-working, ambitious employee of the WPA. The story is the sort to reaffirm one's faith in human beings and, as the reporter comments, his "life story would bring cheer to the most idealistic of relief workers."

This man formerly worked in Texas oil fields, then headed north, but hard luck overtook him and he gives his wife credit for helping him carry on. He says he has worked for as little as 50 cents a day, but that he has always believed in giving an honest day's work no matter who may be the employer or how honest the pay, and is anxious to get a regular job. He has no time for "gold brickers."

With part of his meager WPA earnings, he has obtained a small piece of land on the outskirts of his home city, and has built a house. There are only three rooms and, of course, nothing pretentious, but the family which includes five children, is comfortable and looking ahead to better times. His wife helps the family larder by raising chickens and a garden.

This WPA worker is one of our own -- Donald F. Dunn, WPA foreman in Kansas, who was first assigned to the Prairie States Forestry Project as a common laborer and has worked his way up. The story was in the February 26 issue of the Hutchinson News-Herald. And Dunn's follows, most of whom he said are ambitious and anxious to get back in private employment, are in large part also assigned to the Forest Service.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

SHELTERBELT IMPROVES COTTON CROP

Anyone who has doubted the value of shelterbelts planted by the Prairie States Forestry Project in northwestern Texas must certainly be impressed by the results of a cotton crop study on the D. L. Lane farm, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Turkey, Texas. The lane shelterbelt was one of 55 miles of shelterbelts planted in the Turkey district in 1937. Lane and his tenant took excellent care of the belt during 1937 and 1938, with the result that the cottonwoods attained an average height of approximately 14 feet.

Forest Service Officers, noting a marked difference in the cotton yield on stalks within the area protected by the trees from drying winds of last summer and the yield outside the protected area, arranged to obtain accurate data, with the following results:

Rows 1 to 75, beginning immediately north of the shelterbelt, averaged 97.55 pounds per row. The next 89 rows, beginning with row 76 which was 228 feet from the shelterbelt, averaged 87.67 pounds of cotton per row. An increase of 10 pounds per row in favor of the area protected by the shelterbelt is an excellent showing for trees of only two seasons' growth. The check was made on a measured half-mile, and bears out the statements of the Forest Service that belts will protect land and crops for a distance approximately 20 times the average height of the tallest trees.

Another check was also made. One-rod row samples were taken from 10 rows, beginning at the belt and spaced 25 feet apart. In each of these rows at the ends, one rod was measured and staked, then 245 feet were skipped and another rod measured and staked, and so on until 10 rods had been staked in each of the selected rows. These mechanically selected rods were then picked and their yields follow:

Row one, 12 pounds; row two, $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, row three, $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; row four, 9 pounds; row five, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; row six, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; row seven, 9 pounds; row eight, $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; row nine, 8 pounds; and row 10, 7 pounds.

It will be readily noted that away from the belt the crop yield lessened with the exception of rows seven and eight, which were in a slight depression and apparently received more moisture.

- Edgar H. Kemp, Tex.

ENTHUSIASM THAT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND!

Elmer Wood of Trousdale, Kansas, looks at his accounts and becomes enthusiastic over tree planting. He has a three-acre planting of black locust and mulberry which he says has yielded 10,000 saleable posts, besides those he has used on his farm, and an abundance of firewood. During November and December, 1938, Mr. Wood says, he sold 3,270 posts from the grove. He hired four neighbors to cut the posts, providing needed income for them as well as net receipts of \$366.45 for himself.

Mr. Wood also realizes the protective value of the trees and has applied for two shelterbelts this spring.

- Jewell G. Harrison, Kans.

BROADCAST VS. DRILL SOWING OF CONIFERS

Most nurserymen now use the drill-type conifer seeder in preference to broadcast sowing because it is a labor saver which greatly reduces sowing costs. The common type makes 10 small furrows, drops the seed, covers the seed and packs the cover soil in one operation, and it can be adjusted to sow the different species at the most practicable rate.

I have used both methods, and after a number of years of observation I am convinced that the saving in sowing costs does not carry through. If the seed is drilled to allow enough room in the row for all seedlings, a much larger acreage per million trees is needed than where broadcast sowing is used. This means a larger area to treat with acids or sulphates, a larger area to shade, cultivate and sprinkle. All production costs subsequent to sowing increase.

In reply to the claim that drill seeding is best on a site where only the combined effort of cotyledons in a solid row can crack the soil, I say that a site where the proper use of overheads fails to keep seedbeds in condition to permit free emergence is not the place to try to raise conifers.

Picture what takes place in a drill row of 40 percent viable Ponderosa Pine, sown to produce 75 seedlings (1-0) per square foot. Allowance is made for a possible 25 percent loss from damping-off and other agencies, and 10 percent as a safety factor. Between 240 and 250 seeds per square foot are needed, which, figuring the lineal feet of rows at 2.5 per square foot of bed, means that 100 seeds were sown per lineal foot of row. This is piling up seed.

About the sixth day after sowing, germination is far enough along that radication begins. We must not forget that germination, radication or emergence of the seed is not simultaneous. As the hypocotyl, or caulicle, takes root the rest of the seed begins its way upward. The first cotyledons to reach the surface may have to push their way through or disturb the other seeds still in the first stages of germination or radication. Disturbance of the slower-germinating seeds may seriously check germination processes -- at least, disturbance of seeds in stratification is practiced on the premise that it checks or delays germination.

The first cotyledons emerging in a drill row tend to remove too much soil cover. The tender stems are exposed below what normally would be the root collar line, weakening the plants so that they become easy prey to damping-off diseases. Others, not quite ready to emerge of their own accord, are exposed, and a few seconds' premature exposure to the hot sun is usually fatal to the plant. Such losses are sometimes mistaken for pre-emergence damping-off.

An article by Briggs in the January, 1939 issue of the PLANTING QUARTERLY, deals with "Relation of Density of Sowing to Percent of Emergence." Briggs' studies revealed that emergence percent decreased as the number of seed sown per lineal foot was increased. Being a true research worker, Briggs is reluctant to tell us why this is so until he can back up his theories with evidence, but he may soon have more information.

In the meantime, as a nurseryman and not bound as is the plant physiologist or pathologist by the rules of substantiating evidence, I feel that when a method or practice does not give best results we should not be blinded by cost figures which may be misleading. And the nurseryman who sows conifers by broadcast methods should be credited with good sense instead of being classed as old-fashioned.

- M. K. Meines, Nebr.

SOME TRAINING FACTS AND FUNDAMENTALS

(Continued from the February issue of PLAINS FORESTER)

b. Group Training

The second major type of training, in groups, is essential and valuable where more than one trainee is given similar instruction simultaneously. It is generally recognized that individual training in place is more efficient than group training, but there are a number of distinct values and reasons for the latter, some of the more important of which are enumerated below:

- (1) Group training acquaints each member of the group with the essential responsibilities (or such of them as can be covered, depending upon the limitation of time) of the position.
- (2) Effects a material saving of instruction time and of cost.
- (3) Provides an excellent opportunity to become acquainted.
- (4) Provides an opportunity for an informal exchange of ideas, or pooling of information, from which a certain amount of training is received.
- (5) Develops group spirit and morale.

The above are some of the more important basic factors to be considered in our training programs. I am hopeful that effective results from training efforts on this Project will not be sacrificed by too much formality, either in presentation or in the participation of members of the group. A well-organized and disciplined meeting is essential, obviously, but a feeling of warm friendliness and of informality will do as much toward securing for the trainer the results he strives for as any other one thing.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.

THE "ROOSHIAN" ALWAYS WERE A PUZZLE TO US

I've been told that Russian olive seed won't heat, but ---- .

When some of the Russian olive seed heated last year, we attributed the trouble to poor cleaning. This year, however, the cleaning job was thorough, but this was our experience:

Two parts of sand and peat were added per part of seed, by bulk, and the mixture placed in wooden bins with depths varying from 15 to 22 inches. The seed room is under the nurseryman's dwelling, and temperatures can be controlled by opening or closing the outside door and the door to the furnace room. The room temperature was maintained between 35 and 40 degrees, and within a week the seed in the bins began to heat. Then the seed mixture was spread out to a depth of 12 inches and the outside door thrown open so that the room temperature dropped to below freezing. The seed temperature dropped to 40 degrees and remained there.

Let's have some of your experiences. Have you noticed heat in Russian olive seed? Have you made any studies on temperatures with this seed in stratification? How much heat can Russian olive seed stand without injury, and are we sure that this seed does not go through a chemical process during stratification which produces heat?

- O. M. Patten, N.Dak.

NEBRASKANS LIKE TO HUNT RABBITS

Widespread publicity given this winter to community rabbit hunts initiated by the Forest Service produced excellent results in Nebraska. The information and instructions furnished by the Forest Service were used all over the State, and large hunts were held outside of, as well as within, the shelterbelt planting areas to reduce the jack rabbit menace. Nearly every Sunday in January, for instance, from one to four rabbit drives were conducted, and a number of others were staged on week days. At one hunt, near Kearney, more than a thousand hunters surrounded an area of 56 sections of land, and killed more than 3,500 rabbits and three coyotes.

Participants in community hunts not only furnished their own ammunition and transportation, but contributed money to hire a patrol plane to aid in keeping hunters evenly distributed along the hunting lines.

The Nebraska Office claims the distinction of furnishing the inspiration for the first rabbit drive by archers. Bows and arrows were the only weapons permitted, and the archers dropped plenty of rabbits.

- Carroll F. Orendurff, Nebr.

WE CAN TELL 'EM ABOUT IT, ANYWAY

Perhaps we have considered ourselves pioneers in a sense, campaigning for a better living standard for a large slice of America's population. Well, maybe so, but recent discoveries by an expedition of the American Museum of Natural History into the darkest hinterland puts us in the position of teaching to inhabitants of this land, so far advanced in science and mechanics, the lessons of the aborigines.

The discoveries are related in a story by Richard Archbold, a member of the expedition, in the March 5 issue of the Minneapolis Tribune. The explorers found a nation of aborigines 130 miles inland in the New Guinea jungles which is so isolated by barriers as to make any previous contact with European civilization well-nigh impossible. Yet, the explorers found, these people have mastered many fundamentals of scientific farming and engineering, and have devised a system of crop rotation, irrigation, drainage and soil conservation which would do credit to any American farmer.

The aborigines are avid shelterbelters, too, Mr. Archbold reports, his comments being:

"They utilize trees as windbreaks, instead of ravaging forests by axe and fire, as is the usual practice of New Guinea natives. Their eucalyptus trees are precious commodities. They protect the soil, keep it from blowing away; they provide firewood and they furnish the material for building such requirements as the wooden walls enclosing their stockade village of single-room houses.

"When we consider that it has been relatively not so long since we in the United States have been planting trees and shrubbery as armors for soil, the remarkably efficient methods of these ignorant natives can be more readily appreciated. * * * They do not let nature shift for itself, as is the usual wont of the uncivilized."

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

WE LIKE THIS!

The value of shelterbelts exceeds that of good roads, is the opinion expressed by C. R. Wilson of Tekamah, Nebraska, in a recent letter to the Nebraska State Director in which he offers to help in any way that he can. Part of Mr. Wilson's letter follows:

"If I were to choose, at this time, between two important improvements, one being the building of fine roads, the other being the building or planting of fine shelterbelts every mile or half-mile across our State, I would most certainly choose the shelterbelts. The latter will make us prosperous and happy. The other, of course, has a point in its favor, and that is in helping thousands of our best people get out of the State quickly and effectively with a trailer hitched behind."

A HOME-MADE BRAKE TESTER

Many cities now have periodic safety inspections for automobiles and a large percentage of the cars tested fail to pass the brake test. In an effort to reduce the number of failures on this test, the Safety Council of Kansas City, Missouri, conducted tests to find a means by which motorists could check their brakes before appearing at the testing station. The most practical test developed required no more elaborate equipment than a quart milk bottle. To make the test, pour a pint of water into the quart bottle, cap it and set it upright on the floor of the car. Drive the car at 20 miles per hour and then apply the brakes. If the bottle does not upset, the brakes will not pass official inspection.

- Highway Research Abstracts, March, 1939.

A colored porter in a hotel was asked why rich men usually gave smaller tips than poor men.

"Well, suh," the porter answered, "the rich man don't want nobody t'know he's rich, and the po' man don't want nobody t'know he's po'."

- "Bruce Every Month"

A LITTLE HISTORICAL RESEARCH OFTEN HELPS OUT

There are two axioms which are brought home forcibly every once in a while. One is: "There is nothing new under the sun." The other is: "Every worth-while development is the result of the accumulation of human experience, not one man's idea." These are admirably illustrated in a bulletin by the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, issued January 10, 1917. Its title is "Tree Planting Needed in Texas," and if you fellows lack forceful argument for field shelterbelt planting it will pay you to peruse the bulletin. The wording of the sections of the Texas bulletin dealing with field shelterbelts and in our own publication, each developed independently, is so similar as to be almost humorous.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Bill Moffet and "Red" Meines returned the last of February from their annual sojourn in the South. Apparently they both enjoyed their southern vacation(?). Bill looks very sleek and well-fed, and must have put on several pounds. No excess adipose tissue was discernible on Red, but then we understand that he didn't do so well at the extra-curricular sessions at the nurserymen's meeting.

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During the period February 15 to March 4, the Nebraska Office was host to Fiscal Agent Lee Stratton (part time) and Auditor Bill Wulf. We really enjoyed their visit and believe they did also. Aside from the regular audit work, Bill raised his bowling average several points.

- R. W. Smith, Nebr.

NORTH DAKOTA NOTES

Les Hansen has returned from his detail in Texas and reports that he now knows the planting job thoroughly. We expect to see the dirt fly in the New Rockford District this spring.

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Vic B. Anderson, New Junior Clerk-Stenographer for the Valley City District, has just completed his initial training period in the State Director's Office, and has been assigned to his field post.

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Lincoln H. Thorpe, Shelterbelt Assistant, has been turned over to Hansen at New Rockford. "Link" hails from sunny California and took his Forestry Degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

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Al Ratcliff has returned from his detail in the warm and sunny State of Oklahoma, and has taken up his new duties in the State Director's Office.

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G. K. Clark is expected daily from his winter's hibernation in the Southland. Ho! Hum! Looks like things were going to start with a bang in frigid Arctica before long now.

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M. C. Shipley of South Dakota and Harry Ebel of North Dakota have swapped stations. "Ship" arrived in Jamestown on March 1 to take up the duties of Administrative Assistant. Harry and Al Ford have been swapping fish stories at Brookings since February 27.

- K. W. Taylor, N.Dak.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Thirty-four additions have been made to the rolls of the Prairie States Forestry Project during the last month or so, and two resignations were announced. Besides these personnel transactions, Albert S. Ratcliff was promoted to Senior Stenographer and transferred from Valley City to Jamestown, North Dakota; Harry K. Ebel and Merlin C. Shipley, administrative assistants, exchanged jobs, with Ebel going to Brookings and Shipley to Jamestown; and Helen Naser, Senior Stenographer, was transferred from Timber Management to Operation in the Regional Office.

The new appointees and their headquarters follow:

North Dakota: Subdistrict Officer -- Lincoln H. Thorpe, Carrington. Junior Clerk-Stenographers -- Victor B. Anderson, Valley City; Winfred C. Hoel, Devils Lake; and Richard S. Lassen, New Rockford.

South Dakota: Subdistrict Officer -- Clinton T. Haring, Huron. Junior Clerk-Stenographers -- Roy C. Brown, Huron; George A. Klufa, Mitchell; Philip O. Iverson, Hecla; and Robert C. Ziemann, Watertown.

Nebraska: Subdistrict Officers -- Frank H. Wadsworth, Ewing; Ralph K. Stryker, Norfolk; Merrill A. Matthews, Creighton; John R. Stevenson, Rushville. Junior Clerk-Stenographer -- Ivan Waldo, Alliance. Assistant Clerk-Stenographer -- Venice J. Jelinek, Grand Island.

Kansas: Subdistrict Officers -- Melvin E. Crawford, Cheney; Richard C. Johnson, Great Bend; Robert D. McCulley, Pratt; W. Morris Morgan, Conway Springs; Orval E. Jess, Medicine Lodge; Donald P. Duncan and Lester E. Bell, Kinsley; Paul E. Slabaugh and William V. Catlow, Hutchinson; and Carl L. Hawkes, Dodge City. Junior Stenographer -- Venita Maxine Allen, Manhattan.

Oklahoma: Subdistrict Officers -- Harold A. Lewis, Mangum; Ivan C. Decker and Maurice C. Yearsley, Carnegie; and Walter G. Dahms, Hollis. Junior Clerk-Stenographers -- John K. Ferguson, Mangum; Roland C. Fry, Carnegie.

Texas: Subdistrict Officer -- Clifton S. Coffman, Jr., Childress.

Regional Office: Senior Stenographer - Mary Jane Manion, to replace Helen Naser in Timber Management.

The resignations were: Victor O. Goodwin, Shelterbelt Assistant in Kansas, who went to Region Four of the Forest Service at Ogden, Utah; and Therone I. Faris, Shelterbelt Assistant in Oklahoma, who has gone to the Soil Conservation Service in South Carolina.

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Money. It's a funny world. If a man gets money, he's a grafter. If he keeps it, he's a capitalist. If he spends it, he's a playboy. If he doesn't get it, he's a ne'er-do-well. If he doesn't try to get it, he lacks ambition. If he gets it without working for it, he's a parasite. And if he accumulates it after a lifetime of hard work, he's a sucker.

- Montana Wool Growers News Letter.